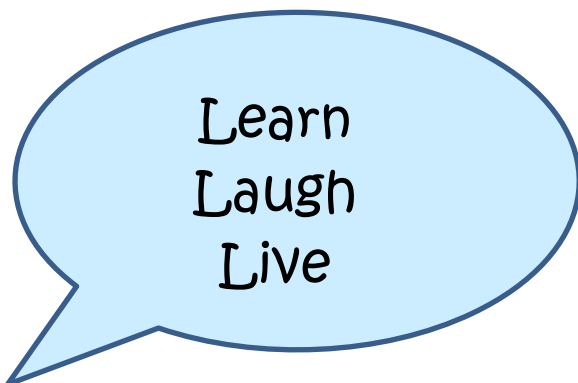


# Hickling Broad u3a November 2024 Newsletter



## Diary Dates: November 2024

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Mon 04 Nov   | Country Dancing          |
| Tue 05 Nov   | Croquet/Games            |
| Wed 06 Nov   | Walking                  |
| Wed 06 Nov   | Bookworms                |
| Thu 07 Nov   | Creative Arts and Craft  |
| Thur 07 Nov  | Blurr on location        |
| Thu 07 Nov   | Discover Norwich         |
| <b>Fri 08 Nov</b>                                      | <b>Members' Meeting</b>  |
| Mon 11 Nov   | Country Dancing          |
| Tue 12 Nov   | Croquet/Games            |
| Thu 14 Nov   | Crib                     |
| Mon 18 Nov   | Blurr                    |
| Tue 19 Nov   | Croquet/Games            |
| Thu 21 Nov   | Wildlife                 |
| Thu 21 Nov   | British History          |
| Mon 25 Nov   | Gourmet Diggers          |
| Tue 26 Nov   | Croquet/Games            |
| Mon 02 Dec   | Country Dancing          |
| Tue 03 Dec   | Croquet/Games            |
| Wed 04 Dec   | Walking                  |
| Wed 04 Dec   | Bookworms                |
| Thu 05 Dec   | Creative Arts and Crafts |
| Please see Group reports below for details of meetings |                          |
| For sailing dates please see Sailing report            |                          |



## HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting at Hickling Barn (NR12 0YU) 2pm on Friday 8th November, Andrew Pettit, Hickling Project Manager from The Norfolk Wildlife Trust, will come to give us an eagerly awaited update on the Trust's work developing, maintaining and protecting Hickling Broad and its wildlife. We will also hear about their sterling work refurbishing our local human watering hole, The Pleasure Boat Inn, since its recent purchase by the Trust. This will be a fabulous and unique opportunity to get a real insight into the Trust's local work and progress so far, as well as their hopes and plans for the future. We look forward to seeing you there!

At our October Meeting Broadcaster and raconteur Wally Webb gave a packed meeting an illustrated presentation showing what led up to a career in radio, and his forty years with BBC Radio Norfolk as a presenter and roving reporter. With many amusing stories and some that touched the heart, Wally described how radio began to change and what led to his surprise retirement. We also heard about the huge amount of charitable and other good causes that have benefitted from Wally's hard work and support over the years. Wally gave us a hugely entertaining afternoon with his stories, after which followed our usual home made tea and cakes. What a spread of treats we had!!! A huge thank you goes out to Wally for his energy and presenting skills, and to our stalwart tea and cakes team for another memorable u3a afternoon together.

You may have heard that our fabulous new website is up and running thanks to Andy's tireless patience! Its a great place to look at our activities or to promote your group if you want to - why not take a look at [hicklingbroad.u3asite.uk](http://hicklingbroad.u3asite.uk) - we are sure you will be both pleased about and proud our new face on the world wide web!

And finally, our Internet and Computer learning group continues to develop, its not too late to join us - details are enclosed in the newsletter..

## News from our Interest Groups

### Group Contact Co-ordinator

*Helen Foster:*

**Country Dancing: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays (2:00 – 4:00 pm) in Hickling Barn**

*Dinah Slatter:*

Please contact Dinah if you are interested in joining.



**BLURR – The Photography Group: 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Monday  
(2:00-4:00pm) at Hickling Barn**

**Contact:**

Last month our chosen subject was autumn colours. And, along with the rest of the country, the cry was heard 'where's autumn gone?' So, we reverted to the fall back subject (pun intended) of black and white. Next month should be business as usual as autumn shows itself in all it's glory. We can only hope.



## **Bookworms – Reading Group: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday (2:00 – 4:00 pm) Hickling Barn**

*Kathy Cooper:*

"Bookworms meet up at Hickling Barn on the first Wednesday of the month 2-4pm. Members choose their own book from the list supplied by the library and the member who chooses the book to be discussed that month will lead the meeting.

On 2 October, eight members got together to discuss Katy's choice, 'One Day' by David Nicholls and below is Katy's review:

This book turned out to be somewhat of a "Marmite" choice in that some of us really liked it but some really didn't.

It concerns the relationship between Emma and Dexter, a couple who first meet as students and remain friends who meet up once a year. They are attracted to each other but allegedly don't want to take things any further and to just remain friends. They are polar opposites and we discussed what qualities they were attracted to in each other. Emma became a very successful writer but Dexter's life descended into a downward spiral of drugs and alcohol which resulted, inevitably, in not being able to hold down a job. However, they did finally marry but the book ended in tragedy when Emma died in a road accident. The Group discussed whether this was a good ending to the book. We also thought the dialogue was very realistic and humorous which was something of a redeeming quality for those of us who didn't really like the book. We gave this book 7/10.

Next month we will be discussing 'Case Histories' by Kate Atkinson which was chosen by Judy. If you would like to join us for a taster session, drop me an email or just turn up. You will be made very welcome."

## **British History**

*Steve Whitby:*

After the unfortunate cancellation of our September meeting it was business as usual as Steve led our October meeting on the subject of "Unusual Taxes". He said we might have heard of some but were unlikely to know them all - did you know that there used to be taxes on non- smoking, beards, cowardice and urine?

Our November meeting (the last for this year) is on 21st November in the Barn at 2p.m. Kaye will be telling us all about "The history of manners". All are welcome and we don't study dates or kings and queens, the focus is very much on social history and life in bygone days.

## **Crib: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, Hickling Barn (2:00 – 4:00 pm)**

*Roy Smith:*

Crib meet second Thursday of the month at the Barn 2-4 pm. All welcome. Tuition given. Contact Roy Beginners welcome.

## **Creative Arts and Crafts: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (2:00 – 4:00 pm)**

*Rose Pigula:*

We are a small, friendly group who enjoy a range of different art and crafts. If you would like to join us just contact Rose on the above email.

## **Croquet/Games Group**

*Diana Fossett or Keith Burton*

Where has the time gone? We started the Croquet season in April and seven months later, we have reached the end. The group has continued to grow and flourish and there has been much enjoyment, not to mention a bit of competitiveness! At the same time, in the Barn, we have had a small number of members playing games and we all meet up for coffee, tea, biscuits and cakes at breaktime. For the winter season, we will all play cards and various other games in the Barn.

If you would like to join us, please contact Keith or Diana

## Discovering the Broads/Norwich

*Chris Foster:*

To start our winter of discovering Norwich we booked onto a professional guided tour of Medieval Norwich. We started by the Cathedral and via the Castle we finished at the top of the Market. There were many interesting stories and lots of History on a relatively short walk. One theme that shone through was the commercial importance of the market. It started in Tombland under the control of the Cathedral and the clergy took the tolls and caused riots when the authorities became greedy. It moved under the orbit of the Castle with similar political consequences. So today we can see why Norwich Market is an attractive and vibrant mix of food, crafts, flowers, services and much more and is one of the oldest and largest outdoor markets in the country.

Next month - all welcome.

[Norwich's Hidden Street Tour.](#)

**A fascinating tour of the historic 'hidden street' lying beneath The Shoebox in Norwich, led by a local storyteller, history enthusiast and performer.**

Hidden below Castle Meadow, between the market and the Norman Keep, you can discover the past of our fine city, with its trades, houses and people.

Thursday - Nov 07 2024 at 11:30 AM. Starts at the Shoebox - which is by the bus stops opposite the castle - [Norwich's Hidden Street Tours - The Shoebox](#) You will need to book in advance. - £15.00 a head.



## Dining Club: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (various locations)

*Diana Fossett:*

This month the Dining Club visited the Swan at Horning. This is an historic hotel which dates back to 1696. It has serene views over the River Bure and has plenty of outside seating when the weather permits. There were 16 of us and we were given a section all to ourselves, albeit with separate tables, but it made it easier for us to move around and chat. On the whole our party seemed to enjoy their food, however there was a lot of waiting for our meals to arrive which was disappointing. I was informed at the end that they were very short staffed in the kitchen.



## Gourmet Diggers: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday (2:00-4:00 pm) at Hickling Barn

*Jane Brooker: Kate Fletcher:*

Houseplants. We all brought in one of our houseplants and talked about how we looked after them, had we bought them ourselves, had we just acquired them or were they a gift? Orchids seemed to be the most popular and some useful tips were to be had on how to get them to flower again once they had died back. What are the merits for having houseplants in your home, they help keep stress levels low, help you relax and keep the air around us clean? We then went onto jobs to be done in the garden during November. Mostly tidying up the garden, collecting the endless leaves.

Finally we all talked about what we had done in the garden this last month, always a interesting topic.

Today we reached the letter Q in our cooking through the alphabet. Nicky gave us a cheesecake which was made with a combination of quark and mascarpone. She served it with a mixed berry compote and very nice it was too. To add to our entertainment we all brought in a kitchen gadget we either couldn't be without or lives in the back of the cupboard. These ranged from a serrated gadget to cut the top off your boiled egg (not used) to a silicone lid with flaps to put on top of your saucepan which stops the pan boiling over. (Used all the time)



## Walking: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday (usually 10:00 am)

### Various locations

*Roy Smith:*

We met at Ludham Church and walked down Womack water to follow the river bank of the Thurne towards Potter Heigham. Then we headed inland to wind our way back via tracks, minor roads and footpaths. The photos look a little bleak but it was a pleasant day to blow away the cobwebs and appreciate the wonders of Norfolk's big skies. Thanks to Glenda for being the leader for the day.

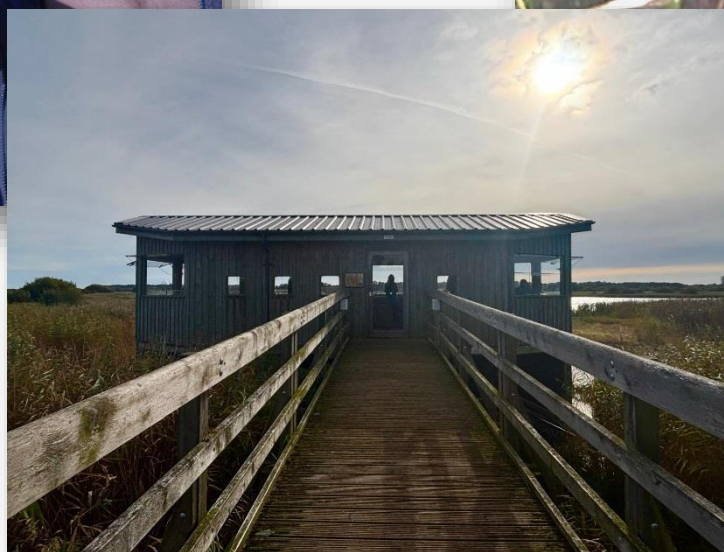


## Wildlife Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (10:00 am) Various locations

*Chris Foster:*

This month we visited Minsmere RSPB reserve. This is one of their flagship reserves and it is well worth a visit. On arrival we were advised that the bird ringers were in action and we enjoyed a fascinating talk and demonstration of ringing. The very small Firecrest (see photo) was a highlight. We then sneaked a coffee before setting off around the site. There are an impressive number of different biomes in a relatively small area. Our first stop was by a fresh water pond where we were able to watch a little water vole swimming down to the bottom of the pool, plucking out the succulent roots and then chewing away in full view of the appreciative audience. We then visited, reed beds, sandy heathland with sand cliffs, coastal sand dunes, a shingle beach, the "scrapes", woodland car, mixed deciduous woodland and temperate grassland - seven different hides are available to pick out the birds that are suited to each area. From just one hide we saw - Mallard, Widgeon, Teal, Gadwall, Shoveler duck, Shelduck, Pintail, Egyptian, Greylag, Canadian and Barnacle goose, Avocet, Dunlin and Blacktailed Godwit. Each hide also had the backdrop of Marsh Harriers and Hobbies displaying in the distance and there were also specular fly passes by migrating birds such as the geese. There is a cafe on site so we could enjoy lunch and then drift back out to see more. It was a lovely sunny day and well worth the longer than usual travel.

Next month we will probably enjoy the annual fungi foray - possibly at East Ruston - details to follow



## Voices of Hickling

*Steve Whitby:*

No meetings are currently planned.

## Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

*John Stacey:*

## Members Corner

*Do you have something of interest to our members? A local event perhaps. Space permitting I will post it here in the next newsletter. Please send your entry to the email address below.*

### **Stalham Christmas Tree festival**

runs this year from Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> until Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of December. Do come along and see the Hicking Broad u3a tree. 10.30am - 4.00pm every day - tea/coffee and cake all day and soup and rolls at lunchtime.



### **What's on at our next meetings:**

#### **November 8th**

##### **Norfolk Wildlife Trust - A Hickling Update**

Andrew Pettit from Norfolk Wildlife Trust will come to give us an update on progress for their plan and vision for Hickling Broad. This will be a unique opportunity to hear about how our local nature reserve is developing and thriving under the custodianship of the Trust

#### **December 13th**

##### **Greg Powles Christmas Show**

Get ready to party and prepare yourself for fun and bedazzlement as professional performer and entertainer Greg Powles comes along with his Christmas Show to kick off the festive season. As is customary at our December meeting, everyone is welcome to bring along some snacks or nibbles to share if they wish.

#### **January 10th**

##### **Hickling Mills and Drainage Systems**

In a further part of our exploration of local history. Maggie Prettyman will present an account of our local mills and drainage system. Without these structures the land could not have been drained and Hickling would have been a very different place - or maybe not here at all! Stories of storms and smuggling as well as some unseen family photographs of the restoration of Hickling Tower Mill will make this an afternoon of unique insights into our local landscape.

All items for the newsletter should be sent to [hbu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:hbu3anews@gmail.com)